

6. A composition of claim 1, wherein the cidal activity of the composition over a period of about five minutes or more after formulation is equivalent to the activity necessary to achieve an approximately eight log decrease in a sample of *E. coli*.
7. A composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is used in conjunction with an application medium.
8. A composition of claim 1, wherein the nitrous acid is generated by a metal nitrite.
9. A composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is a liquid teat dip.
10. A composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is a gel.
11. A method comprising disinfecting a substrate by application of a composition of claim 1.
12. A method of claim 1, wherein the substrate is mammalian tissue.
13. A method of claim 1, wherein the substrate is a metal surface.
14. A composition of claim 1, comprising an amount of nitrite in the form of nitrous acid that is no more than about 85% by weight of the total nitrite ions in the composition.
15. A composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is a disinfecting gel comprising a thickener.
16. A composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is an oral rinse.
17. A method comprising maintaining disinfection of a substrate over a period of at least around several months by applying an effective amount of a composition of claim 1 to the substrate.
18. A method of claim 17, wherein the substrate is mammalian tissue.
19. A method of claim 17, wherein the substrate is a metal surface.
20. A composition of claim 1, wherein the composition may be sprayed onto a substrate.